AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fusion proteins comprising FGF-21 or a biologically active or antigenic fragment thereof can be produced using methods known in the art. Such fusion proteins can be used therapeutically or can be produced in order to simplify the isolation and purification procedures. Histidine residues can be incorporated to allow immobilized metal affinity chromatography purification. Residues EQKLISEEDL (SEQ ID NO:11) contain the antigenic determinant recognized by the myc monoclonal antibody and can be incorporated to allow myc monoclonal antibody-based affinity purification. A thrombin cleavage site can be incorporated to allow cleavage of the molecule at a chosen site; a preferred thrombin cleavage site consists of residues LVPRG. Purification of the molecule can be facilitated by incorporating a sequence, such as residues SAWRHPQFGG (SEQ ID NO:13), which binds to paramagnetic streptavidin beads. Such embodiments are described in WO 97/25345, which is incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 7A-7B. Figure 7A-7B provides codon usage for yeast. The first field of information on each line of the table contains a three-letter code for an amino acid. The second field contains an unambiguous codon for that amino acid. The third field lists the number of occurrences of that codon in the genes from which the table is compiled. The fourth field lists the expected number of occurrences of that codon per 1,000 codons in genes whose codon usage is identical to that compiled in the codon frequency table. The last field contains the fraction of occurrences of the codon in its synonymous codon family.

Figure 8A-8B. Figure 8A-8B provides codon usage for Drosophila.

Figure 9A-9B. Figure 9A-9B provides codon usage for E. coli.